

# DISCOVER

## Brooks community honors King with march, memorial service

By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing

The 60-plus people who participated in the Jan. 13 symbolic march and memorial service commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday anticipated the event would be meaningful. What they experienced, however, was something even more memorable: their renewal of hope for a more peaceful world through the inspiration of the slain civil rights leader's life.

The commemoration, sponsored by the Brooks City-Base MLK Committee, began at Hangar 9 with a brief address that explained the significance of civil rights marches.

"Will we march only to the music of time or will we, risking criticism and abuse, march to the soul-saving music of eternity?" said Airman 1st Class Antonia Fitzgerald quoting Dr. King.

"During the Civil Rights Era, Dr. King, along with many others, did several things to attract attention to serious social issues. People of all races would nonviolently

gather in support to address segregation and discrimination by picketing, boycotting businesses, conducting sit-ins and assembling marches. All these methods were important manifestations of freedom of speech and assembly," continued Airman Fitzgerald, a committee member from the 68th Information Operations Squadron.

Ultimately, she explained, the marches organized and led by Dr. King and his Southern Christian Leadership Conference staff contributed to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

"Today, we will march to honor those who have worked so hard, supported, and most of all, gave their lives to end segregation and provide equal rights for all," she concluded.

Carrying a banner made by Brooks Youth Center children which read "We Too Have A Dream," the march was led by memorial service keynote speaker Col. Edward Maney, Installation Chaplain of the U.S. Army Garrison at Fort Sam Houston; Eric Stephens, 311th Human



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

More than 60 members of the Brooks community commemorated Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday with a symbolic march Jan. 13.

Systems Wing executive director; and Chief Master Sergeant Reggie Williams, 311th HSW command chief.

As the march neared the Brooks Chapel where the memorial service was to be held, participants were reminded of one of Dr. King's most powerful messages displayed on the chapel marquee: "Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend."

Inside the chapel, Staff Sgt. Desmond Fahie delivered an equally powerful message when he presented

his original poem "I Dream." The 68th IOS poet-musician passionately shared his feelings about how Dr. King would view today's world through the rapid-fire style of slam poetry (See related story on page 4). So moved by Sergeant Fahie's message, Brig. Gen. Tom Travis, 311th HSW commander, presented him with his commander's coin.

General Travis also delivered a tribute to Dr. King, citing his many contributions to civil rights and world peace that led to him becoming, at age 35, the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.

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### BROOKS ROOM DEDICATED



Photo by Robbin Cresswell

Brig. Gen. Tom Travis (right), 311th Human Systems Wing commander, Chief Master Sgt. Richard Hollins Jr. (center) and Command Chief Master Sgt. Reggie Williams participate in a ribbon cutting ceremony at the dedication of the Brooks City-Base room at Lackland Air Force Base. The room will expose trainees to a broader aspect of the Air Force while showing them Brooks' mission.

## MLK's Voting Rights Act legacy linked to universal suffrage

By Rudy Purificato & Lt. Col. John Stea  
311th Human Systems Wing and Air Force Medical Support Agency

Democracy's promise of universal suffrage now being embraced by the people of Iraq and Afghanistan is linked to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s quest for voting equality forged 40 years ago with the landmark passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

This federal law, which specifically guarantees the right to vote to African-American citizens, owes its creation to the Civil Rights Movement led by Dr. King and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. When President Lyndon Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act in the Capitol Rotunda on Aug. 6, 1965, he fulfilled a promise to Dr. King and other civil rights leaders to correct a lingering injustice that had prevailed in southern states despite passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. No longer could southern voter registration boards use poll taxes, literacy tests and other bureaucratic impediments to deny African-Americans their Constitutional rights.

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Everything in this publication is edited, prepared and provided by the 311th Human Systems Wing Public Affairs Office of Brooks City-Base. Material for the Discovery should be typewritten, double-spaced and submitted to 311HSW/PA, 2510 Kennedy Circle, Brooks City-Base, TX 78235-5115 by noon the Wednesday prior to the week of publication. All photos are Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated. Articles may also be submitted by fax by calling 536-3235 or by e-mail.

Articles may be submitted by email to Kendahl.Johnson@brooks.af.mil or to Discovery@brooks.af.mil.

The Discovery is published every other week on Friday. Contact the editor at 536-5141 for more information.

Discovery advertising Deadline for display advertising is noon the Friday preceding the publication date. To advertise in the Discovery, call 675-4500 or send advertising copy to Prime Time Military Newspapers, P.O. Box 27040, San Antonio, Texas 78227.

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## 'Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that'

By Master Sgt. Kimberly Spencer  
59th Medical Wing Public Affairs, Lackland AFB

Martin Luther King's words still ring as true today as they did 30 years ago. His contributions to our history helped a nation to right unspeakable wrongs, which were tarnishing the name "America."

Even after the Supreme Court struck down segregation in 1954, human rights offenses were both law and custom in much of America. Before Dr. King and his movement, a respectable black seamstress could be thrown into jail and fined simply because she refused to give up her seat on an Alabama bus so a white man could sit down. A six-year-old black girl could be spit on by a white New Orleans mob simply because she wanted to go to the same school as white children. Highly educated black people were routinely denied the right to vote, serve on juries or buy or rent homes wherever they chose.

America needed the help of Dr. Martin Luther King. Within a 13-year span, from 1955 to his death in 1968, he was able to explain, expose and extricate America from many of the wrong doings going on. His tactics of non-violent passive resistance to racial injustice gave America the voice of reason needed at the time.

While his voice still rings in our ears, it is important to remember the heart of that of which he spoke. Many groups today ask for tolerance. Rather than resolving our differences, tolerance often means little more than

leaving one another alone. It does nothing to promote understanding. There is little in the concept of tolerance to promote true compassion and acceptance of one another.

Tolerance has no cohesion or healing power in society. Dr. King did not speak in terms of tolerance. His ideal was love. Yet in current discussions of human relations the word love is seldom used. Dr. King insisted love was the dominant or critical value by which we could overcome racial strife. That same concept of love and acceptance is what is needed today.

The love he spoke of was a biblical love, one that is unconditional, unselfish and seeks the absolute good of another party. That kind of love is a tough love, one that confronts wrong and injustice with the truth that all people are created equal.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was honored with an official observance held Jan. 17 and several other memorials and marches in the past few weeks. Those ceremonies and celebrations remind us of how his campaigns awakened the conscience of our society.

It is because of Dr. King and the movement he led that the United States can claim to be the leader of the "free world" without inviting smirks of disdain and disbelief. He and the courageous men and women who marched beside him enabled our country to achieve greater heights through love and peace.

It is up to us to keep the dream alive, not just by tolerating one another, but also by loving one another.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Air Force seeking recruiters

The Air Force is seeking recruiters. Benefits for recruiters include a three-year controlled tour, special duty assignment pay of \$450 per month, additional clothing allowance of \$197 per year and test PFE only for the Weighted Airman Promotion System. In addition, recruiters receive a ribbon worth two points for WAPS.

Some recent changes in grade requirements may allow candidates to pursue recruiting duty earlier in your Air Force career. Below is the revised qualification list:

- Be an airman first class with at least 24 months Time in Service or senior airman through tech sergeant with less than 17 years Total Active Federal Military Service as of the Report No Later Than Date
- Meet appropriate Time on Station (TOS) requirement as of the RNLTD
- Be able to obtain 36 month retainability as of the reporting month
- Be qualified in Primary Air Force Specialty Code and possess an appropriate skill level commensurate with grade and/or rank
- Must not have had an overall rating of less than "4" on any EPR within the last three reporting periods
- Must not be enrolled in a mandatory fitness program and must be outstanding in appearance, military bearing, conduct and past duty performance

For more information, contact Senior Master Sgt. Michael Walljasper at 536-5528.

Commissioning program available for Airmen  
MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. — The Airman Education and Commissioning Program offers active-duty enlisted Airmen the opportunity to attend college on a full-time basis, complete degree requirements and earn a commission through Air Force ROTC.

"Airmen selected for this program must pursue one of the Air Force's sought-after technical degrees and join an Air Force ROTC program," said Col. Steve Wayne, Air Force ROTC national commander.

Airmen selected for the program remain on active duty and are administratively assigned to an Air Force ROTC detachment, he said. Besides full pay and benefits, they receive a scholarship of up to \$15,000 per

year for tuition and fees and an annual textbook allowance of \$600.

Airmen may participate in the program for one to three years, depending on their major, previous academic preparation and age. They attend school year-round except for the one summer they attend field training.

To qualify for this program, Airmen must apply for one of the following majors: meteorology, nursing, foreign languages, foreign area studies limited to Middle East, Africa, Asia and Russia/Eurasia, mathematics, physics, computer science and engineering.

The application deadline is March 1, and a selection board meets in April with results released in early May. Airmen selected will start their studies and Air Force ROTC participation in the fall 2005 academic term.

### DMRTI hosting two courses

The Defense Medical Readiness Training Institute is hosting the Joint Operations Medical Managers Course from Feb. 27 to March 4, 2005, at the Saint Anthony Hotel. The course prepares senior healthcare personnel to serve as leaders in support of operational missions.

The DMRTI is also hosting the Military Medical Humanitarian Assistance Course March 5-6, 2005. This is a two-day interactive course designed to train U.S. military healthcare providers to deliver optimal medical care to civilian populations, primarily women and children, in the aftermath of humanitarian emergencies. For registration and other course information, visit DMRTI's website at [www.dmrti.army.mil](http://www.dmrti.army.mil).

### Guam tour lengths change

The assistant secretary of defense has approved a tour length change to Guam.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2006, accompanied tours will change from 24 to 36 months, and unaccompanied tours will go from 15 to 24 months. This makes an assignment to the island a long tour versus a short tour.

Airmen who report to Guam before Dec. 31 will continue to receive short tour credit. Those reporting on or after Jan. 1 will serve the long tour and subsequently receive long-tour credit.

Airmen can contact their local military personnel flight for more information.



# Software application helps in transporting wounded military

By Kendahl Johnson  
Discovery Editor

When a military member is injured overseas, the first priority is to provide the wounded efficient transportation to a medical facility. His or her life can often depend on it. Brooks has been overseeing the development and management of a program which helps ensure that those injured military members are transported quickly and efficiently.

Transcom Regulating Command and Control Evaluation System, or TRAC2ES, is a web-based application used by TRANSCOM at Scott Air Force Base, Ill. It allows the medical community to request patient movements from one medical facility to another. It has been operating successfully for nearly four years, with the Brooks' Human Systems Program Office one of the driving forces behind its success.

"It allows us (the military) to use our airlift assets to the maximum extent to get our wounded Soldiers, Airmen and Sailors back to the United States," said Lt.

Col. Tim Springer, chief of the TRAC2ES program at Brooks. "We use our air assets smartly and get the best care for our wounded."

When a military member is injured anywhere in the world, TRAC2ES allows leaders to coordinate and monitor aircraft and to know where their personnel are at all times.

"It's sometimes called the FedEx for the medical patient," Colonel Springer said. "You know how to request transportation for your patients and you know where your patients are within the transportation system."

TRAC2ES was developed because there was a need to optimize how the injured were transported to medical facilities. Some patients were being routed to facilities that weren't ready for them or didn't have the care needed for the particular wounds of the military member.

Another impetus behind the project was that previously, supervisors had no way of knowing where their wounded were within the transportation system.

TRAC2ES not only allowed for increased visibility and improved tracking of patients, but it also improved the care for the injured military member.

"Because the system understands how much airlift an injured military member will need, the level of care is quicker," Colonel Springer said. "They are going to facilities that know they are coming. They can plan better and are ready for the patient."

The program has been operational at its current level since July 2001. All major military medical facilities are connected to TRAC2ES and since its inception, there have been more than 26,000 patient transport requests.

"The key success is the fact that there is now a system that helps optimize fairly limited resources. We can move our wounded to the right level of care quicker and with visibility," Colonel Springer said.

TRAC2ES has been a success, and has been featured in a Fox News report and has been noted in various computer magazines. It has won several base accolades, including 311th Human System's Wing Commander's Award in 1998 and again in 2001. Despite their success the developers and managers continue to work to improve the efficiency of the program.

For example, in December, when the northern Iraqi city of



Courtesy photo

TRAC2ES, a Brooks' managed web-based command and control system that manages worldwide patient and casualty treatment and movement, is used heavily by Transportation Command at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois.

Mosul was bombed, there were numerous injuries to U.S. military members. The patient movement requirement center, which began using TRAC2ES to request transportation for the wounded, noticed that TRAC2ES was functioning slower than normal. Troubleshooters soon found that a special condition in the database search code was causing the problems.

"It was the large number of people trying to be moved in a short amount of time that was causing the system to slow down," Colonel Springer said. "It had never occurred before."

A team, including several Brooks employees, began working on the problem. It took just seven hours to identify the problem, correct it, test the system, and approve and implement the changes. "In seven hours the system was restored to working condition at normal speed," Colonel Springer said.

Overall, the program has a broad impact to the Department of Defense and specifically to the warfighters. Brooks will continue to work with improving TRAC2ES and enhancing its capabilities, a project with an anticipated finish date of 2009.



# Brooks hoop star prefers 'poetry in motion'

By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing

On the hardwood his hoop moves can be described as poetic, but to Staff Sgt. Desmond Fahie he prefers to be known for his 'poetry in motion.' Long after lyricist-singer Johnny Tillotson recorded his 1960 hit song "Poetry in Motion," this Air Force recording artist and poet is creatively demonstrating the range of motion in his emotions through a unique style of literature and music.

Called poetry slam, Sergeant Fahie is a rapidly rising star within the competitive performance poetry movement that developed in the 1980s in American clubs during open mic night. His forceful, rapid-fire performance style is typically provocative and always emotionally moving. More importantly, the original materiel he and fellow slam poets produce is designed to provoke audience reaction beyond applause or jeers.

"It's not so much the way I write slam poetry, but more about the performance. It's intense, in-your-face of what I feel at the moment," he said, noting that it's usually free-style and free-flowing.

Sometimes he is moved to write a poem just before performing it. "It's customized poetry. You have to know your au-

dience. Most of the poems are 1-3 minutes long," he said, explaining that these poems are delivered through a combination of recitation and singing.

While this format's spontaneity is appealing to him, exposing the truth of one's inner feelings and of the truth that exists during the moment in time when the poem is shared, is to Sergeant Fahie the art form's greatest attraction.

Naturally gifted as an athlete and musician, none of his high school basketball teammates would have predicted this Brooklyn, New York native would enjoy performing 'slam poetry' over slam dunks.

Today, this 68th Information Operations Squadron computer systems technician is making more of a name for himself in the world of art and entertainment than he is in the world of Air Force basketball as a member of the Brooks men's varsity team.

Some of Sergeant Fahie's songs are featured on the recently released CD "American Money" produced by 2411 Management. Its local distribution marks another turning point in the

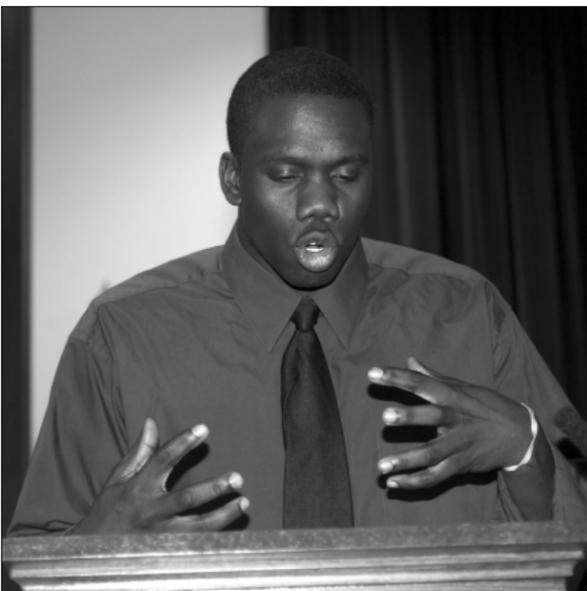


Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

Staff Sgt. Desmond Fahie recites poetry at the Martin Luther King memorial at the Base Chapel Jan. 13.

budding entertainment career of this Brooks artist whose fans include two colleagues who believe in his talent. Convinced that he has a bright future as a professional entertainer, Staff Sgt. Norman Gadson with the 68th IOS and Staff Sgt. Courtney Edwards with the 311th Communications Squadron underwrote and produced the CD.

"I'm working on a new CD called "Multi-Textured Prism" that will include between 10-19 of my songs and poems," says the 25-year-old entertainer who has become well-known in San Antonio as a performer in "poetry slams."

He has won prizes during open mic slam poetry contests at Sam's Burger Joint, Kramer's and the Barnes & Noble bookstore off San Pedro hosted by the Sun Poets Society. While he first became known for his artistry here in 2001, Sergeant Fahie's talents were evident to his parents.

"At age five I started playing drums," he said of his childhood growing up in Washington, D.C. By his freshman year at Albert Einstein High School, he had mastered several musical instruments. He also became fascinated with 'go-go' music that combines African and Cuban rhythms.

"The drums never stop. It's the same beat, but different songs," he said in describing the musical style. As a member of the Junk Yard Band, he performed this music on street corners and at basement parties. His interest in unconventional themes, be it music or poetry, has guided him throughout his life.

"I did not want to perform music collegiately. It's not my style. I wanted to make music no one had ever heard before," he

said. However, he regrets having accepted band and basketball scholarships at Wayland Baptist University in Plainview, Texas.

"I dropped out and went to D.C. to pursue my dream. I took a leap of faith," he said. He promoted his music and poetry in churches and clubs shortly after arriving in our nation's capital in 1999. It was during this period when a stand-up comedian with an unusual comedic style influenced him to pursue slam poetry.

"I'd watch Dolemite films. His jokes rhymed," he said. Shortly thereafter, Sergeant Fahie began performing slam poetry in cafes and coffee houses. A realist, he also knew that being a starving artist wasn't for him. "I joined the Air Force in 2000 to cultivate myself," he said.

His first Air Force assignment to Brooks has provided him with numerous opportunities to cultivate his talent. Last year, he joined the local band Dog Men Poets as a conga drummer who also provides background vocals.

Most important to him is his writing. "It's a passion, an obsession. When I first started writing I couldn't sleep," he admits. Besides composing songs and poetry, he is also writing a non-fiction book titled Men Like Me Don't Exit. As far as his fans are concerned, Sergeant Fahie is truly 'one of a kind.'

## A LOOK at BROOKS

If you could meet any fictional character, who would it be?



Airman Yemi Dada-Daodu  
USAFSAM

Spiderman — Ever since I was a child, I have liked Spiderman. The whole idea of web slinging is cool.



1st Lt. Jason Bishop  
311th HSW/Public Affairs

Lex Luther — That man had a lot of drive and ambition.



Beatrice Elizalde  
Services/Library

Alex Cross — He's the detective in James Patterson novels. The character is fascinating and intelligent.



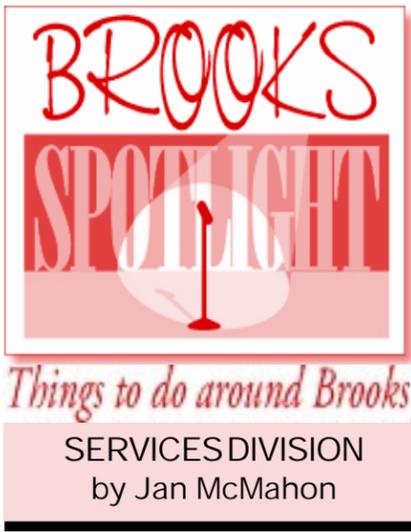
A1C Nicole Koshinski  
USAFSAM

Catwoman — When I was a little girl, she was my favorite character.



Diana McCurtain  
Health & Wellness Center

Garfield — He has the same attitude as me -- mean and nasty, but with a great sense of humor.



1194. Full camper hookups are \$10 per day and include sewer, water and electricity. Partial camper hookups are \$8 per day and include water and electricity. Stop in and visit the camp host in spot 15 to check availability.

**Party Pavilions**

Outdoor Recreation offers party pavilions in three different locations on base for your party needs. Whether it's a family reunion or a birthday party, the outdoor rec has space available. Two pavilions are located in the park with a children's playground area, a basketball court and volleyball court. Pavilion 1 has a large BBQ pit for those really big once a year barbecues your company or organization has. Pavilion 3 is located next to the base swimming pool where pool parties can be booked June through August at the Fitness Center for a nominal fee. All party pavilions have access to restrooms.

**Car Wash**

Put that bucket and sponge down and visit the base car wash. Now you can wash your car for less than a dollar. Timers are set for four and a half minutes for just 75 cents. A change machine is available and the facility is available 24 hours per day.

**OUTDOOR RECREATION**  
Bldg. 1154, 536-2188

**Family Camp**

The Brooks Family Camp, located on the southwestern corner of the base, is a very secluded and quiet place where travelers can stay for a few days, weeks or months at a time. There is a "catch and release" fishing pond where anglers can relax and practice their sport. Accommodations also include the use of a bath house and restrooms in Bldg.

# National Childrens Dental Health Month

W	I	P	E	T	O	O	T	H	P	A	S	T	E	M	B
E	S	N	A	E	L	C	R	Y	L	M	E	Y	E	A	R
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M	O	U	T	H	G	U	A	R	D	C	A	A	E	N	F

Submit your 100% correct and completed word search to the dental clinic - making you eligible for a drawing to be held on 25 Feb.

**WIN a Sonicare Elite toothbrush!**

Open to all Brooks City-Base employees, active duty, retirees and dependants.

Questions - call 4-1846

INSTRUCTIONS: The words can be forwards, backwards or diagonal, up or down

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. mouthguard | 14. floss      |
| 2. report     | 15. bite       |
| 3. dentist    | 16. decay      |
| 4. sealants   | 17. gums       |
| 5. plaque     | 18. toothpaste |
| 6. fluoride   | 19. diet       |
| 7. banana     | 20. clean      |
| 8. song       | 21. food       |
| 9. smile      | 22. chew       |
| 10. teeth     | 23. molar      |
| 11. Dudley    | 24. jaws       |
| 12. milk      | 25. braces     |
| 13. brush     |                |





## MLK a driving force behind Voting Rights Act

Continued from page 1

During the signing ceremony, President Johnson said, "Today is a triumph for freedom as huge as any victory that has ever been won on any battlefield. Yet to seize the meaning of this day, we must recall darker times." He recounted the injustices of slavery and violation of African-Americans' rights once slavery's shackles had been broken.

Nearly a century before Dr. King launched the voting rights crusade, African-Americans living in the South were repeatedly and blatantly denied opportunities to vote despite guarantees under the U.S. Constitution's 15th Amendment, enacted in 1870 during the period in American history known as Reconstruction. This amendment, which

stipulates that the right to vote "shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude," was nevertheless violated throughout the South.

The genesis for voting rights reform engendered by Dr. King's campaign to eliminate barriers to African-American voting is rooted to the widespread use of the poll tax. Initially created as a capital tax levied equally on every adult within communities, the tax became an unfair burden on citizens who couldn't afford to pay it. Poll taxes enacted in the South between 1889 and 1910 effectively disenfranchised many African-Americans, as well as poor whites, because its payment was a prerequisite for voting. The

poll tax as a prerequisite for voting in federal elections was abolished in 1964 with the 24th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. However, poll taxes continued to plague southern black voters in local and state elections.

Passage of the Voting Rights Act contributed to the poll tax's demise. In 1966, the poll tax was eliminated as a prerequisite for voting in any election in America by the U.S. Supreme Court. The court ruled that such a tax violated the "equal protection" clause of the U.S. Constitution's 14th Amendment which said: "the right of citizens of the United States to vote in any primary or other election for President or Vice President, for electors for President and Vice President, or for Senator or Representative in Congress, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State by reason of failure to pay any poll tax or other tax."

Prior to the Supreme Court's poll tax ruling and federal legislation that guaranteed African-Americans the right to vote, an earlier Constitutional change did not end minority voter discrimination. When the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1920 gave women the right to vote, African-American women continued to face overwhelming obstacles to voting in the South.

That would forever change as a consequence of significant events that occurred during the struggle for civil rights. Numerous acts of violence and terrorism had been used to intimidate southern black voters, including



Courtesy photo

Leaders of the country gather around President Lyndon Johnson as he signs the Voting Rights Act on Aug. 6, 1965.

the murder of three voting rights activists in Mississippi. These acts led Dr. King to stage a peaceful march from Selma to Montgomery, Ala., that became a watershed event in both the civil and voting rights movements.

On March 7, 1965, Alabama state troopers attempted to block marchers at the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma. This confrontation convinced President Johnson and Congress to end southern legislators' resistance to voting rights.

The Voting Rights Act became a reality when Congress determined that existing federal anti-discrimination laws were insufficient to overcome resistance by state officials to enforce the 15th Amendment. Section 2 and 5 of the Voting Rights Act ended any discriminatory voting loopholes that existed at local and state levels.

Section 2 prohibits minority vote dilution such as tactics, leg-

islation and situations that weaken minorities' voting strength. Section 5 requires certain areas of the country to obtain "preclearance" from the U.S. Attorney General or U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia for any changes with reference to voting. For example, a change from district/ward elections to an at-large election could indicate the intent of the governing body to make it difficult for minorities to get elected.

"This act flows from a clear and simple wrong. Its purpose is to right that wrong," LBJ said during the Voting Rights Act signing ceremony. The President observed, "Millions of Americans are denied the right to vote because of their color. This law will ensure them the right to vote. The wrong is one which no American, in his heart, can justify. The right is one which no American, true to our principles, can deny."



Courtesy photo

President Lyndon Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act Capitol Rotunda on Aug. 6, 1965, he fulfilled a promise to Dr. King and other civil rights leaders to correct a lingering injustice.



**BRIG. GEN. TOM TRAVIS**  
311th Human Systems  
Wing commander

# ACTION LINE

## 536-2222

The **COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE** is your opportunity to make Brooks a better place to live, work and play.

If you have a suggestion for improvement, a complaint or a problem that you have not been able to resolve through normal complaint channels or the chain of command, call the **COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE, 536-2222.**

Only items of general interest will be published, so please leave your name and number for a personal response.

**The base agencies listed below can be contacted directly:**

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SFS after duty hours.....	536-2851	Civilian Personnel.....	536-3353
311th Civil Engineer Squadron.....	536-3861	Military Pay.....	536-5778
311th Communications Squadron.....	536-6571	Civilian Pay.....	536-8370
311th Mission Support Group –		Inspector General (FWA).....	536-2358
Logistics Division.....	536-3541	Military Equal Opportunity.....	536-2584
Safety.....	536-2111	EEO Complaints.....	536-3702
Housing Maintenance.....	533-5900	BXMarket.....	533-9079
Housing Office.....	533-5905	Brooks Development Office.....	536-3655
311th Services Division.....	536-2545	Brooks City-Base Marketing and	
311th Medical Squadron (Clinic).....	536-4715	Development Office.....	536-5366

## FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER

### RESUME WORKSHOP

Jan. 25 — 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Bldg. 537

Are you looking for a job? Learn the different resume styles and how to write and use them effectively to open career opportunities; learn the do's and don'ts of resume development; and as an added bonus, learn how to develop impressive cover and thank you letters.

### BUNDLES FOR BABIES

Jan. 27 — 8 a.m. - 12 p.m., Bldg. 537

Expectant parents session: active duty Air Force couples with a newborn or expecting a child should plan on attending this Air Force Aid Society sponsored class. Obtain information about budgeting, basic baby care, infant development, effective parenting, car seat regulations and much more.

### SPONSOR TRAINING

Feb. 8 — 10 - 11 a.m., Bldg. 537

In accordance with AFI 36-3011, sponsor training is mandatory of all first-time sponsors and those who have not sponsored within the past year. However, others are more than welcome to attend. Learn about tools and resources available for sponsors.

### SEPARATION AND RETIREMENT

Feb. 9 — 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Bldg. 537

This is a mandatory class for active military personnel who are retiring or separating within 120 days. Topics covered are Pre-Separation, Veterans Benefits, Survivors Benefit Plans, TRICARE, and Financial Planning for Transition. Spouses are encouraged to attend.

### SMOOTH MOVE

Feb. 15 — 12:30 - 3:15 p.m., Bldg. 537

PCSing? Hear briefings from TMO, Legal, Clinic, Finance, Housing, and the Family Support Center and ask YOUR questions! Open to all active duty members, DoD civilians and spouses. Overseas move has its own set of challenges and opportunities. Learn more about your OCONUS PCS by staying after for the PCS Overseas class.

### COLLEGE FINANCIAL PLANNING

Feb. 16 — 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Bldg. 537

Section 529 provides for a qualified tuition program that offers special benefits for those who wish to provide funds for a child's college education. One of the two types of plans under this program is the Prepaid Education Services Ac-

count. This account purchases tuition credits or certificates at today's current tuition rates for use in the future and can be state sponsored or sponsored by a private institution. The other type of plan is the Education Savings Account where contributions are established for meeting higher education expenses and is only state sponsored. Come to class and learn all the details to start funding your child's education.

### TAX SEMINAR

Feb. 22 — 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Bldg. 537

Learn about important tax changes for 2004 including new itemized deduction options, changes affecting retirement savings plans, and increased standardized deductions and exemption amounts.

### VA BENEFITS ASSISTANCE

Wednesdays — 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Bldg. 537

A VA representative will be at Brooks weekly. Schedule an appointment to receive VA assistance in filling out your claims, screen medical records, or one-on-one consultations. Bring a copy of your medical records. Beginning Feb. 24, the VA representative will be at Brooks on Mondays rather than Wednesdays.

### FEDERAL JOB SEARCH WORKSHOP

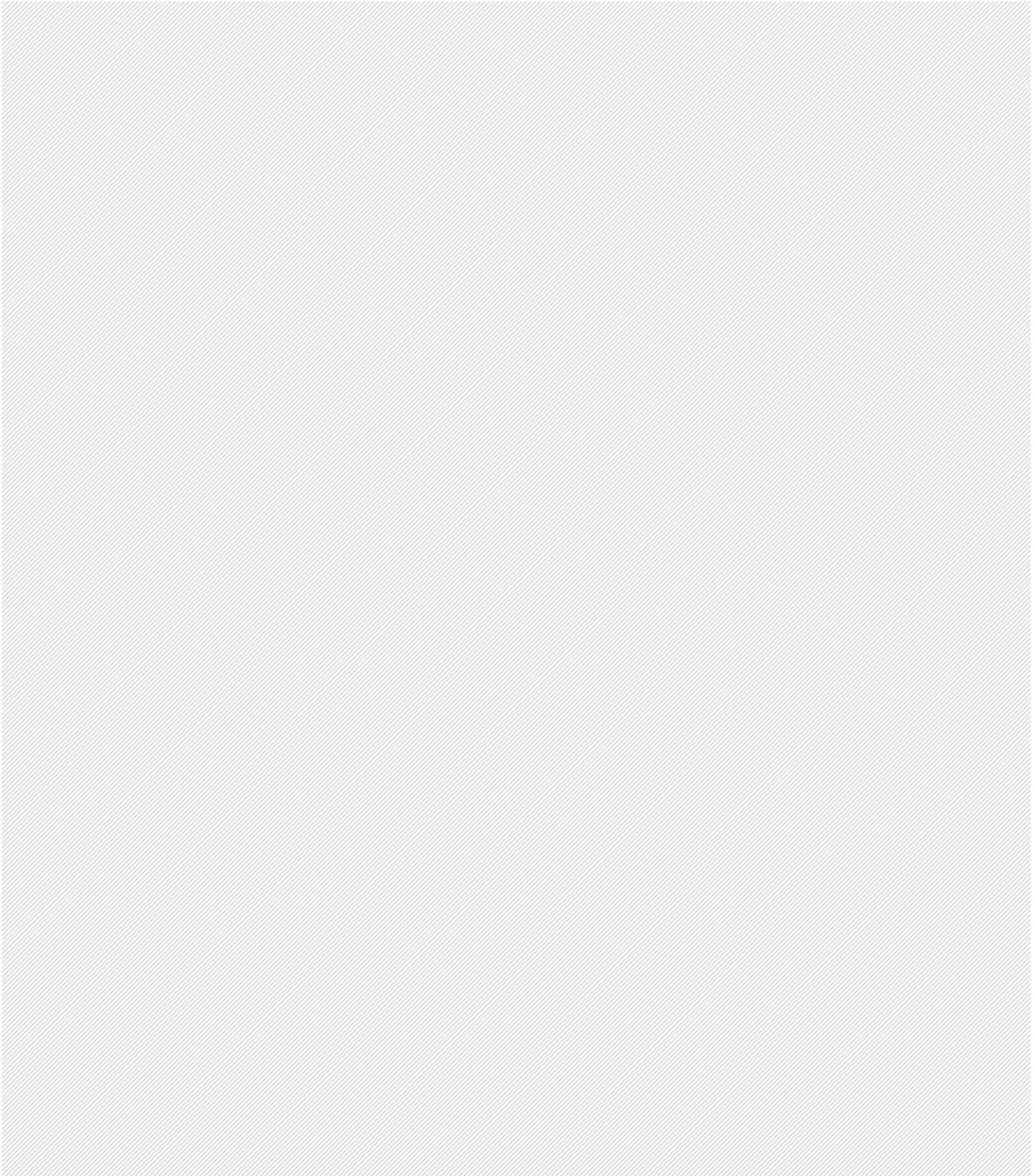
Feb. 24 — 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., Bldg. 537

Learn the ins and outs of navigating the Federal Job system. Bring your most recent resume and vacancy announcements or job advertisements you have found. Bring a list of courses you have completed in any recent college or other educational program. This workshop also includes a briefing from Civilian Personnel office.

To register for class,  
Call 536-2444

### AIR FORCE AID SOCIETY

The Gen. Henry Arnold Education grant program awards \$1,500 grants to dependent sons and daughters of Air Force members and spouses of Air Force members. Use of fund is limited to tuition, books and fees, or other direct educational expenses. This program is tailored for Air Force families with college students (rank does not disqualify you). Application deadline is March 11, 2005. Pick up your application at the Family Support Center or visit the website at [www.afas.org](http://www.afas.org) for an application or for more information.





## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BCB technology expo

The Brooks City-Base Technology Expo will be held Wednesday in the Brooks Club from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All personnel are invited to attend the free event.

More than 20 different exhibitors will be demonstrating the latest in computer hardware, software and information services. Some featured technologies include knowledge management solutions, data warehousing, network operations services, information assurance and security, and mobile/wireless computing.

The event will include complimentary refreshments and free giveaways while supplies last. For more information, or to request a specific company or technology, please contact Kathryn Stephenson at 888-603-8899.

### Research subjects needed

The Air Force Research Laboratory Biosciences and Protection Division is in need of active duty volunteers between the ages of 18 and 50 years and able to pass the equivalent of a flying class exam to participate in several studies which help in the development of safe life support equipment, protocols and procedures for Air Force aircrew in wartime and peacetime environments. Subjects may earn \$150 hazardous duty pay per month. For more information, contact Suzanne DeLaCruz at 536-6258.

### Promotion process video

The Air Force has produced a 20-minute video explaining the promotion process for the top two enlisted grades. The video is available for viewing on the Air Force Portal under the "AF Home" tab at the bottom of the page. The video explains the entire board process, including board make up and scor-

ing procedure. It is a very valuable mentor tool.

### Sergeants Association

The Brooks chapter of the Air Force Sergeants Association meets the second Tuesday of every month. The meeting is at 3 p.m. at Sidney's Grill. Council elections will be held Feb. 8.

### New post office hours

New operational hours for the U.S. Postal Service window in Bldg. 726 have been implemented. The window will be open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will not be closed for lunch. This time change is on a 90-day trial.

Also for a limited 90-day trial period, the stamp vending machine located in the post office lobby has been restocked. If the generated sales fall below \$500 per month, it will be removed. The service station sells U.S. postal stamps that must be purchased in a block of 20 stamps for a cost of \$7.40. Individual stamps are not sold.

### Suicide First Aid Training

Join the Brooks City-Base Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training which prepares you to become a valuable suicide prevention first aid resource.

ASIST prepares you to know and notice the signs and symptoms and to provide interventions to persons at risk of suicide. Training will be held Feb. 3-4 at the USAF School of Aerospace Medicine, rooms 135-137. You will receive practical tools for future use to help persons at risk for suicide. This is a full two-day training with classes from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day. Class size is limited to 36 participants. To register, call Beth Ibarra at 536-6931 or email her at beth.ibarra@brooks.af.mil.

## Legal briefs: small claims court

By 1st Lt. Rhea Lagano

311th Human Systems Wing/JA

In some cases, a person may be financially wronged by a business or person but the amount of money in dispute is not large enough to justify hiring an attorney. In these cases, small claims court may be an attractive, economic alternative to litigation. Hiring an attorney and engaging in litigation can be very costly and time consuming. Small claims court, on the other hand, does not require you to hire an attorney. You are only required to pay a filing fee, which ranges approximately from \$70 to \$100 and you can sue for an amount up to \$5,000.

Small claims court is handled through the appropriate local justice of the peace in the county where the person or business you are suing is located. In order to begin the process, call the court clerk and inform the clerk that you want to file a small claims lawsuit. You will need to provide the clerk with the correct name and address of the person you are suing.

If you are suing a business, you will have to find out who the agent of service is. You can obtain this information from the Secretary of State's Office. If the business has a sole proprietor, you can sue the owner directly. A constable or sheriff will serve the defendant, who must respond to your allegations. The court clerk will then set a date for trial and you and the opposing party are required to attend. If you do not appear, you may lose your case by default.

Carefully collect and prepare your evidence. You may want to bring eye witnesses and relevant documents such as photographs, bills, or written leases or contracts. Get to the point quickly by describing the actual event that gave rise to your claim, stating how much money you are requesting, and telling the judge the events that led to your loss.

The trial is heard by the justice of the peace, unless either side asks for a jury. The procedure is relatively informal. Both sides simply tell the judge their stories. The judge may also question witnesses in attendance. As the plaintiff, you have the burden of proof and you will go first. After you finish, the defendant will make his or her presentation. In most cases, the judge will immediately make a ruling.

If you win, hopefully the losing side will comply with the ruling and satisfy the judgment. However, this is not always the case. You are responsible for enforcing the judgment. If the opposing party does not comply with the judgment, you may be able to take further civil action such as filing a lien or a writ of execution. You may also be able to report the judgment to the major credit bureaus. You may wish to consult with an attorney at this point.

In addition, if you lose, you can file an appeal in county court. You must file within 10 days to have the case reheard at the county court.

For more information on this topic and to view the source of this article, please visit the Attorney General of Texas' website at [www.oag.state.tx.us](http://www.oag.state.tx.us).



## Dr. King remembered for civil rights efforts

Continued from page 1

Poignant moments were the norm throughout the memorial service, punctuated by solo performances by LaWanda Roper from the Brooks Family Support Center. Besides leading the audience in congregational hymns, she sang one of Dr. King's favorite songs: "Precious Lord, Take My Hand."

Chaplain Maney further bur-nished the spirit of the occasion into the hearts and minds of memorial service attendees with an inspirational sermon. "Where are the prophets and Martins of today? Why aren't we energized by what's going on today?" he rhetorically asked, citing an increasingly troubled world where technology has become the

new god and violence continues unabated. "What would Martin (Dr. King) think about us today? There is polarization in America. We didn't come this far to be polarized and segregated in our own communities," Chaplain Maney said, adding, "It's less about race and more about so-called values we uphold."

He leavened his fiery message with the conciliatory theme of faith and hope that Dr. King embraced throughout his life. Chaplain Maney challenged the audience to revive the spirit of forgiveness, understanding and redemption espoused by Dr. King, quoting the latter's signature motto: "We've got to get busy."

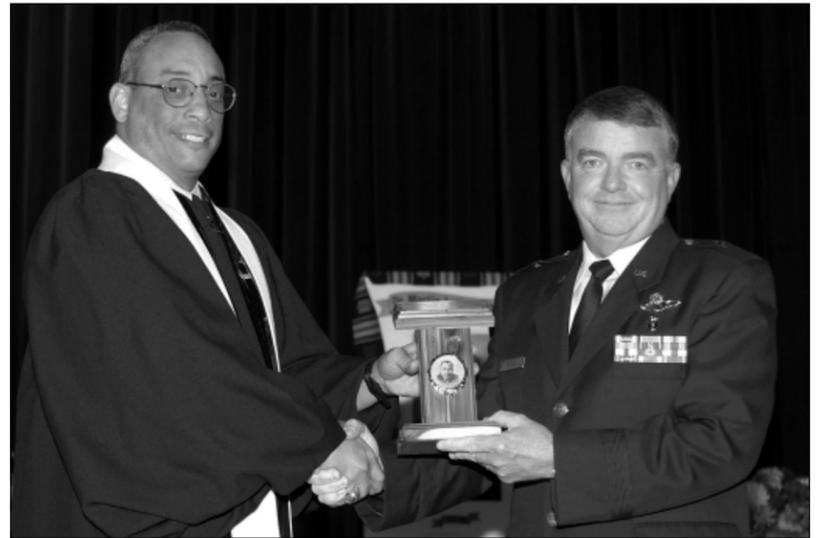


Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

Brig. Gen. Thomas Travis, 311th Human Systems Wing commander, presents Chaplain (Col.) Edward Maney with a plaque. Chaplain Maney, Installation Chaplain of the U.S. Army Garrison at Fort Sam Houston, was the keynote speaker at the MLK memorial service Jan. 13.

## Chief of Staff applauds AFMC for successes

WRIGHT-PATTERSON Air Force Base, Ohio — The Chief of Staff of the Air Force praised Air Force Materiel Command Jan. 11 for its improvements and successes in providing war-winning capabilities on time and on cost during fiscal year 2004.

In a reply to an informal report from Gen. Gregory Martin on his command's 2004 accomplishments, Gen. John Jumper referred to the logistics and sustainment mission, calling it "a success story all around."

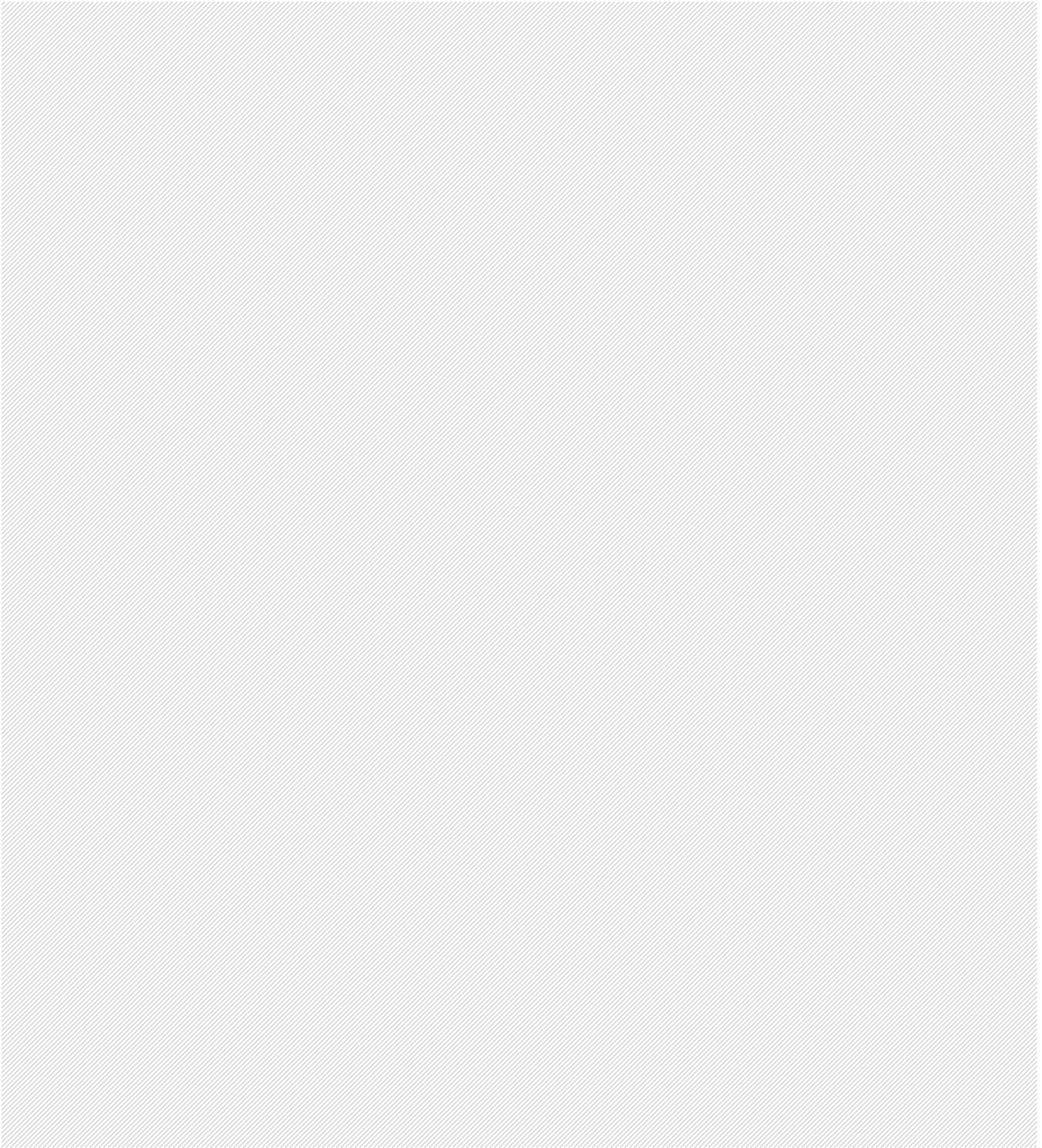
Asked about the Chief's remarks, General Martin gave the credit to the men and women of AFMC. He said that he is looking ahead to an even better year with AFMC in 2005.

General Jumper responded to many significant accomplishments; among them:

- Highest ever aircraft due-date performance at 92 percent on-time
- Beat scheduled aircraft production at 589 required and 597 delivered
- Met engine production goal at 406 required and 406 delivered
- More "iron" on the ramp at 144 fewer aircraft in depot maintenance
- MICAP (aircraft not-available due to critical parts) hours at all time low at 19 percent reduction
- Customer wait time decreasing at 10 percent better than Fiscal Year 2003
- Total Non-Mission Capable due to Supply rate — below 10%
- Depot Maintenance Activity Group — achieved best Net Operating Result in 10 years.

"I know if we keep working the LEAN projects and keep the emphasis on process improvements, accounting and accountability we can get to all the goals we've set," General Jumper wrote. LEAN describes an organizational culture focused on reducing costs by eliminating waste and improving processes.

General Jumper concluded, "I am very proud of AFMC."





Brooks  
Personality  
PROFILE



Photo by Staff Sgt. Brandy Bogart

# A name fit for the big screen

By Kendahl Johnson  
Discovery editor

For many aspiring writers and filmmakers, the desire to make a name for one's self is a driving force behind the overall objective of success. For Staff Sgt. Jack Vudtiyanon, a recognizable name is already in place. Next comes the success, which is sure to follow this talented graphic artist from the Northeast.

Sergeant Vudtiyanon was born in Ubon, Thailand, which is in the northeast near the Laos border. When he was four years old, his parents divorced and his mother brought him and his brother to the United States. After a short time in Indiana, the family moved to Spokane, Wash., where he was raised. At age 14, his mother applied for U.S. citizenship and he became naturalized.

It was in Spokane that Sergeant Vudtiyanon joined the Air Force. He had spent a few years studying broadcast communications at Eastern Washington University. He left college to pursue other interests. "I decided to go out on my own and do my own thing," he said. "But it didn't offer any stability. I had a friend who was in the Air Force and after talking with him, I thought it wouldn't be a bad idea. I realized that it would be a good thing for me to join the Air Force – you get to travel and you get the great education that comes along with it."

So he took that initial step and enlisted. Following basic training, he went to visual information school at Fort Meade, Md. Following tech school, he received his first duty assignment at Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas. After two years in Nevada, he next assignment was Misawa Air Base, Japan, where he spent three years. From there, he went to F.E. Warren AFB, a small missile base in Cheyenne, Wyo.

"It was rather nice," Sergeant Vudtiyanon said. "I was surprised how much I enjoyed that assignment." That enjoyment was not strong enough to keep him in the Air Force; after one

year in Wyoming he detached from the Air Force.

He went back home and started working odd jobs. He worked in the parks department in Spokane before moving to Seattle, where he worked as a salesman, selling housewares in department stores. He also finished a few more semesters in college. Sergeant Vudtiyanon calls his time in Seattle a "wake up call."

"Being in Seattle was a lot different because the cost of living was a lot higher. And what I wanted to do was quite a bit competitive," Sergeant Vudtiyanon said, referring to his desire to work as a graphic artist. "It was really hard living; it was a wake up call. I missed the military and wanted to go back in and make it a career."

Sergeant Vudtiyanon visited a recruiter and she was able to get him his old job in the Air Force, an unusual accomplishment. "I didn't have to go through basic training again. I just waited for my new assignment, which was here at Brooks." He is now working in the 311th Communications Squadron as a graphics illustrator.

In May, the sergeant will PCS to Korea. He hopes to spend some time traveling and take up some new hobbies, like sea kayaking. He would also like to visit his native land of Thailand, where he hasn't been since leaving as a young boy.

He also hopes that while in Korea, he will have time to pursue his dream – that of becoming a writer and filmmaker. "After seeing Star Wars at the theaters, I was hooked," he said. "Ever since I was little I have wanted to be like George Lucas and Steven Spielberg – they are my idols and heroes. Most kids at that age have sports idols. I had geek filmmakers as idols."

His interest in films increased with time. "As I grew older, I grew more interested in how films are made and the techniques used. By the time I was in my early 20s, a friend of mine got a VHS Camcorder and we made some home movies. We put some real effort into it," he said.

Despite the effort, Sergeant Vudtiyanon recognizes that his films weren't going to win any awards. "We made titles like 'Die Santa, Die' where my friend was Santa Claus and his wife got kidnapped. Another was 'Vampire Squids from the Planet Axiom.' We tied strings to squids to animate them and dubbed in voiceovers," he recalled laughingly.

"From there we moved from the silliness to the more serious, but filmmaking is on the back burner now," he said. "Hopefully one day I'll make a really good short film worthy of Sundance. Right now I'm concentrating on writing and illustrating."

Sergeant Vudtiyanon has completed a few short story scripts and even started working on a project while at Brooks. "I was going to make one here but it fell through. We spent one day filming and we completed the opening shot and that's as far as it got. But I have the script, so hopefully I can find some other people to help me out with it. It can be expensive though."

Not only is the financial consideration a hindrance, but it's also difficult for him to find the time to pursue his dream. In addition to his duties in the multimedia shop, he is also in the Honor Guard. But he continues to pursue his goal, spending what little spare time he has on writing and illustrating comic books, hoping to branch off into films at some point.

What Sergeant Vudtiyanon enjoys most about writing, illustrating and graphics designing is the creativity involved. "The most creative projects are the most fun," he said. "When I get into it, I can get crazy about it. I put as much creative effort into my projects as possible. That's where my strong point is."

With an enviable talent, an imagination and creativeness that spawned a movie about alien squids and a determination to succeed, don't be surprised to see the name 'Vudtiyanon' slide by in the closing credits of a film at the local Cineplex. It's a name that will be difficult to forget.



VUDTIYANON

## Q&A

**FULL NAME/RANK:**  
Staff Sgt. Jack Vudtiyanon

**DUTY TITLE,  
ORGANIZATION:**  
Graphics Illustrator  
311 Communications Squadron

**IN SIMPLE TERMS,  
WHAT DO YOU DO?:**  
Through various graphics software I create visual products in support of the Wing and tenant missions.

**BIRTHDAY:**  
February 28, 1971

**HOMETOWN:**  
Spokane, Wash.

**FAMILY STATUS:**  
Single

**PERSONAL MOTTO:**  
"Be humble and do the best in what you're passionate about"

**PET PEEVE:**  
Theaters without stadium seating, water parkers (people who park in two spaces)

**INSPIRATIONS:**  
People who challenge me to see things differently

**HOBBIES:**  
Illustrating, writing stories, cooking, reading and playing X-Box

**FIVE-YEAR GOAL:**  
Be part of USAFE and make tech sergeant first time around while there

**ULTIMATE GOAL:**  
Become a successful and content writer/filmmaker.

**WHY I JOINED THE MILITARY:**  
Travel, stability, and the life experiences gained by meeting new people

**IF I WON THE LOTTERY:**  
Buy/build new homes for my family where ever they want, create a comic book company and computer animation film studio and give back to the community in many ways

**MY GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT:**  
Knowing my mom is proud of me no matter what I do in life



## FEATURE

# Brooks' Aeromedical Library 'one of a kind' in Air Force

(Editor's note: This feature launches a two-part series focusing on the important contributions the Air Force Research Laboratory's Aeromedical Library provides Air Force customers worldwide in its on-going mission to sustain and enhance aeromedical and aerospace research, education and warfighter support. Part one examines the history of this Air Force asset as a 'one of a kind' collection)

By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing

There are no marble commemoratives chiseled into this building's façade, nor are there any historical markers. Its fundamental importance to Air Force medicine is displayed every time an investigator finds the recondite answer to her research problem, every time a flight surgeon half a world away receives an email response to his inquiry that helps to save a flyer's life or prevent an injury on the flightline.

For nearly 90 years this specialized repository has served the changing needs of aviation medicine. It exists as the Air Force's only library dedicated to aerospace medicine.

Located in Building 155 in the historic district known as "The Hill" at Brooks City-Base, the U.S. Air Force Aeromedical Library continues its legacy of service under the management of the Air Force Research Laboratory's Human Effectiveness Directorate. The collection, and the building that houses it, are inseparably linked to Air Force history.

According to chief librarian Joe Franzello, the collection has its roots at the Mineola Lab in 1917 at Hazelhurst Field in Mineola, Long Island, New York. This laboratory, predecessor of

the School of Aviation Medicine, was created for aviation medical research. The collection moved with the School of Aviation Medicine to Brooks Field in 1926. In 1931 it was re-located with the school to Randolph Field. The collection became officially known as the Aeromedical Library in 1942 thanks to the vision of Maj. Gen. Harry Armstrong, future Air Force Surgeon General. He understood the value of developing the library as an educational research tool

**This library has always been the last best resource for literature in aerospace medicine.**

Joe Franzello  
Chief librarian

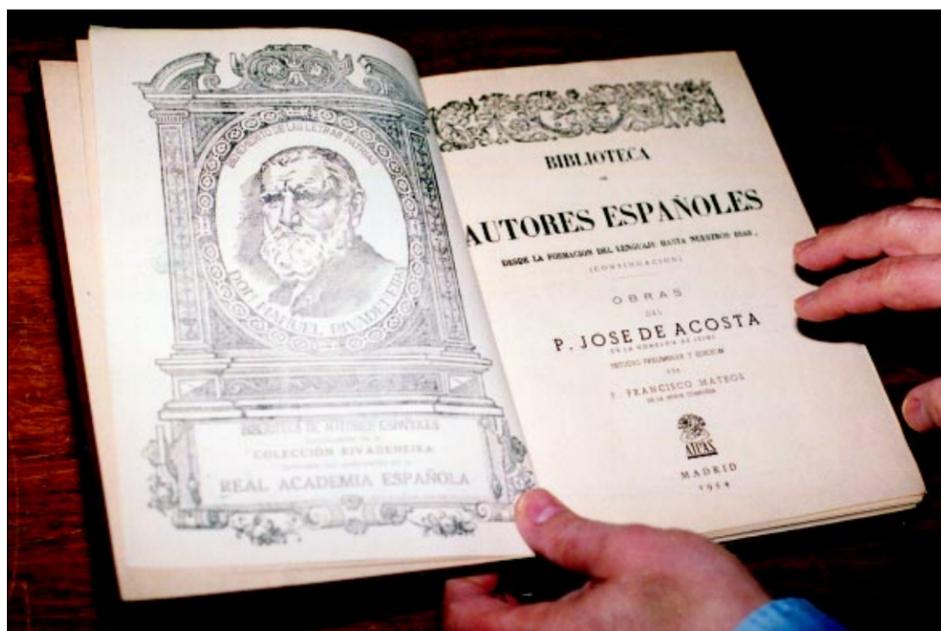
for Air Force scientists. The library would become an integral part of Gen. Armstrong's creation of the world's first Department of Space Medicine that he founded at the school in 1949.

Ten years earlier, Gen. Armstrong had enhanced the library's collection when he authored the landmark book *Principles and Practice of Aviation Medicine*. The library's historical collection contains the author's original review copy of this book with General Armstrong's penciled annotations for editorial changes. The library was re-located to its present 23,000-square-foot, four-floor facility when the School of Aerospace Medicine returned to Brooks AFB in 1959. Today, the collection contains over 400,000 volumes including books, bound journals and technical reports.

Mr. Franzello and his dedicated staff are committed to ensuring that customers' needs are met efficiently and expeditiously. "This library has always been the last best resource for literature in aerospace medicine," says Mr. Franzello. To that end, the collection is dynamic and evolving as it adapts to changing needs.

On its shelves is a variety of scientific literature that truly boggles the imagination. The collection covers an ever-widening spectrum of scientific disciplines. Most notable are its holdings in mathematics, psychology, including cognitive science, human factors, physiology and aerospace medicine.

"Only here will you find together the early documents on caisson disease, on pilot selection, the 26-volume Collected



Photos by Rudy Purificato

A 1954 reprint of the 1590 book *The Natural and Moral History of the Indies* is one of the more notable items featured in the Aeromedical Library's historical collection. It was written by Spanish Jesuit P. Jose De Acosta, a scientific pioneer in altitude sickness.

Papers of the Residents in Aerospace Medicine (1959-1999), the 24-volume ACAM Papers (1949-1971), the Symposia on Aviation Psychology and countless other tributaries of aerospace medicine research reaching back to the 18th century," Mr. Franzello said.

The shelves are rich in the history of science, such as the journal founded by C.L. Herrick 1800s. Mr. Herrick conceived of the science of psychobiology to which he devoted his fledgling journal. When Mr. Herrick contracted tuberculosis, editorship passed to his younger brother C.J., who quit his job to take over editorship. The elder brother died in 1904, but the younger Herrick (1868-1960) continued as editor for 60 years of what became the prestigious *Journal of Comparative Neurology*, one of the great journals of neurology, still published today.

In its never-ending quest to be comprehensive, the library features material from global sources. "We have technical reports from 834 organizations worldwide that touch on the human in the aerospace environment. Our oldest technical reports date from 1917. In terms of journals we have nearly 5,000 titles," the chief librarian said, noting their diversity ranges from cell biology to immunology. The library also provides access to 6,000 electronic journals.

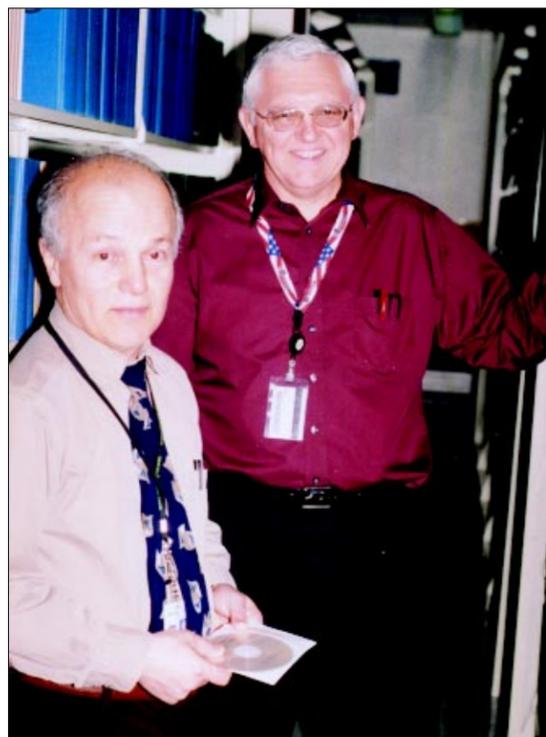
In 1998, the library expanded its collection when it acquired the 8,000-volume Human Resources Laboratory Library housed in Building 578. Mr. Franzello described the consolidation as a major acquisition, enhancing the library's holdings in biosciences, cognitive science and mathematics.

That same year, the library created a special section to house its historical collection. The oldest books there include the 1790 multi-volume German publication *The Annals of Physics*. "It's

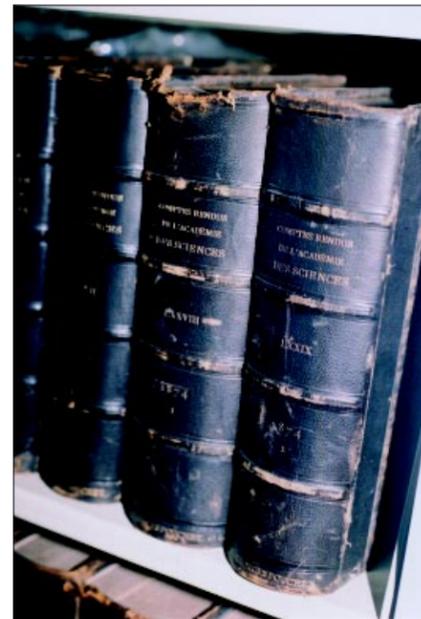
the journal in which Albert Einstein published his Theory of Relativity in 1905," Mr. Franzello said. The historical collection also contains unique items, such as the 1878 first edition of French scientist Paul Bert's *Pression Barometrique* (Barometric Pressure). Says Mr. Franzello, "Publication of his work is foundational in altitude and hyperbaric medicine."

Index Medicus, precursor to Medline, first published in 1879, is indicative of the depth of this library's holdings. Relatively few libraries have it from back to its volume in 1879. "What we're trying to build is a collection devoted to the history aerospace medicine. As a government library we don't care about the rarity of books per se. Our purpose is to provide comprehensive resource for the research in the history of aerospace medicine," Mr. Franzello said.

(Part II focuses on shaping the collection and other library initiatives)



The U.S. Air Force Aeromedical Library's managers include chief librarian Joe Franzello (left) and John Whitney, technical information specialist



These rare French scientific journals from 1874 are preserved under climate-controlled conditions at the Aeromedical Library.



# Lady hoopster points Brooks in right direction

By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing

Angela Ruiz doesn't claim to be fast enough to catch a jack rabbit during a halfcourt showdown. However, she's quick enough to catch on to her role as a leader and playmaker for the Brooks women's varsity basketball team.

The veteran point guard is quietly becoming a force to be reckoned with for her hardcourt shooting ability and her 'team first' leadership style.

"Coach (Hosea) Talbert has gotten me to be more vocal on the court," admits the 20-something Ruiz who is an Air Force Research Laboratory student aide. The naturally shy and quiet San Antonio native has been working on her skills as a hoop floor general ever since she laced up gym shoes as starting point guard for the San Antonio Independent School District's Highlands High School Owls.

An only child, she gravitated to basketball at age four. "Dad nailed a (hoop) backboard to our garage. Ever since, I haven't been able to put the ball down," she confessed. With encouragement from her parents George and Esther Ruiz, she quickly learned the fundamentals of playing both guard positions in league basketball during her youth.

"I didn't have a good high school experience," she says of the woeful Lady Owls. Besides enduring her team's less than stellar seasons, Ruiz was made to play point because of her quickness and agility. Her preference, then and now, is

shooting guard. Nevertheless, all of her coaches have seen in her the ability to point teams in the right direction on the floor.

Three years ago, Brooks varsity men's star point guard Robert Garcia became a role model for Ruiz when he became head coach of the base women's hoop squad. His coaching style had a profound effect on Ruiz.

"He had it in for me. He was tough. He would always play hard against us (during practice). He was real competitive. If you could get passed him, you've done something," she says about the lightning fast Garcia who had earned numerous All-Air Force Material Command tournament honors.

Under his tutelage, Ruiz became more confident in her athletic abilities. However, her development as a player at the Air Force varsity level was temporarily put on hold when the Brooks team was disbanded following the 2002-03 season.

During the intervening years when there was no women's varsity basketball program here, Ruiz continued her development as a varsity point guard for the Fort Sam Houston Rangerettes. "We played the University of the Incarnate Word and military teams, such as Sheppard AFB, during tournaments," she said.

As a 'free agent,' she left the Rangerettes at the end of the 2004-2005 pre-season to join the Brooks varsity team when she heard that Coach Talbert had resurrected the base women's hoop program. "Talbert recruited me. He's the same

as Robert (Garcia)," Ruiz says in describing their coaching style. However, Coach Talbert, she says, is more focused on conditioning.

"He's gotten us in better shape. He tells us we can't do anything when we're tired," explained Ruiz about the head coach who prefers fast breaks and up-tempo basketball.

"I'm working on my ball handling now," says she with conviction, adding, "We have a lot of speed on our team." That speed contributed to the team's first win of the season at home against Randolph AFB in December. "We lost the first game against Randolph, but we won the second one," she said, noting their opponent is a perennial powerhouse. She was especially motivated to take charge on the floor in that home series with her parents watching her performance.

While a WNBA career is not in her future, Ruiz plans to become a profes-

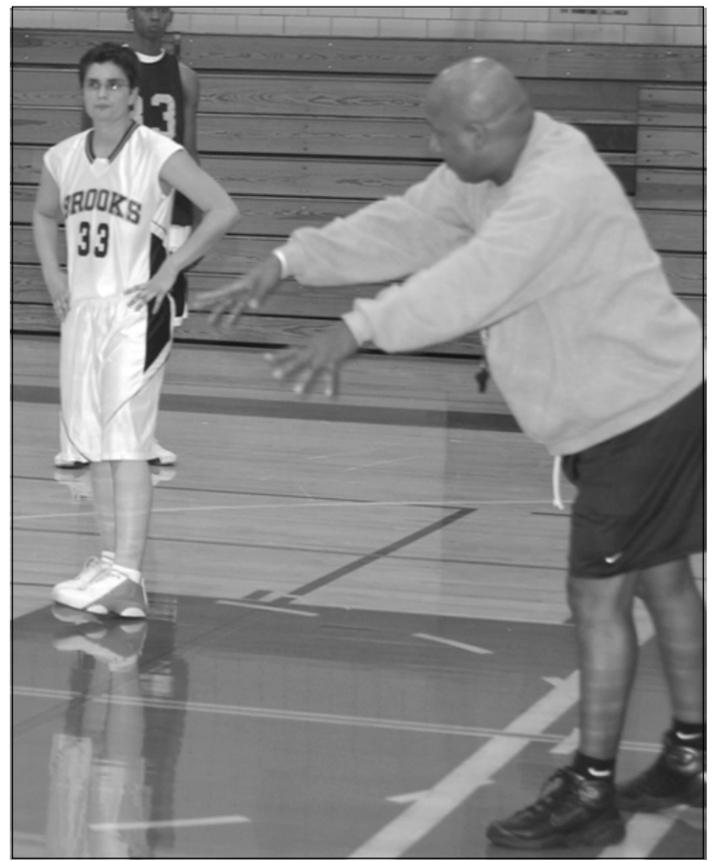


Photo by Rudy Purificato

Head women's basketball coach Hosea Talbert works with Angela Ruiz, one of the team's veteran point guards.

sional coach. "I want to coach and teach math," she says, noting that she's on track to earn a bachelor of science degree in exercise and sports science from Texas State University next May.

Until then, she'll continue to demonstrate a quiet resolve in helping her teammates win in the highly competitive Southwest Military Basketball League.

# Falcons win two squeakers to begin unbeaten in Mountain West



Photo by Danny Meyer

Nick Welch drives the baseline in 64-62 win over conference foe New Mexico.

**AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo.** — Nick Welch scored 19 points and Air Force won its 22nd straight home game, beating New Mexico 64-62 Saturday despite grabbing just nine rebounds and allowing the Lobos to shoot nearly 70 percent.

Air Force couldn't stop the Lobos from hitting shots and had trouble getting inside for rebounds, making up for it by harassing the Lobos into 23 turnovers.

Even with the mistakes, New Mexico still had a chance at the end.

The Lobos got within three on a layup two minutes into the second half, then went more than six minutes without a field goal as Air Force pushed the lead to 45-36. New Mexico made a late 13-2 run to take a 58-57 lead with a three-pointer with 46 seconds left.

Air Force took the lead right back with 29 seconds left, when Welch powered inside for a three-point play that made it 60-58.

New Mexico never got a chance to get it back.

Matt McCraw snared another sloppy crosscourt pass by the Lobos and hit two free throws with 21 seconds left to put the Falcons up four, then Welch hit two free throws after David Chiotti scored at the other end.

It was the second straight conference win for the Falcons, who are 2-0 in league play. They

opened the conference season with a 58-53 victory over Colorado State as Antoine Hood scored 24 points and Air Force overcame poor shooting with hounding defense to win its 21st straight home game.

Air Force shot just 35 percent and was 3-for-23 from 3-point range, making up for it by pressuring the Rams into bad shots and mistakes. McGraw and Welch added 13 points each.

Colorado State, playing without No. 2 scorer Matt Williams (knee), was plagued by turnovers in the first half and poor shooting in the second to lose its 14th straight road game. Matt Nelson had 21 points and Dwight Boatner added 14 for the Rams, who were 1-for-14 on 3-pointers and had 22 turnovers.

Air Force had a miserable time shooting in the first half, watching shot after shot clang off the rim. The Falcons finally found the range for a brief spell midway through the second, in part because of their defense.

Air Force held the Rams without a field goal for more than six minutes and made 7-of-10 at the other end, using a 15-1 run to go up 45-34 with 8 minutes left.

Nelson followed with three straight baskets to cut Air Force's lead to 45-40, but Colorado State couldn't hit much else,

finishing the second half 11-of-31.

Colorado State had 17 turnovers - most on lobs that weren't high enough - and took just 16

shots in the first half. The Falcons missed their first six 3-pointers, finishing the first half 2-of-11.

## Armed Forces Team wins gold

**ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga.** — A recent trip to Mons, Belgium, netted two members of Team Robins a place on the royal court - of basketball that is.

Lt. Mike Roy, a JSTARS air weapons officer, and John Bailey, a C-17 product directorate item manager, were chosen as the U. S. representatives for the *crème de la crème* of military basketball competition, the 41st Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe Men's International Basketball Championship.

"It was a great experience," Roy said. "It was a really talented team, and a great bunch of soldiers and athletes."

The tournament pitted allies against each other on the hardwood battlefield. Participating countries included Italy, Czech Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Turkey, United Kingdom, Canada, Belgium and the United States.

Roy got his lucky break to play on the All Forces team when another player dropped out of the competition, he said.

Although the usual selection method is to choose from members of the All Army and All Air

Force teams, the coach was looking for a point guard, and Lt. Roy's four years of college ball made him a great catch.

Mr. Bailey was chosen as assistant coach by the team's head coach, Babejohn Kwasinak. Ten years on the all-Air Force team as an active-duty member put his name high on the list of choices.

The tournament consisted of four games played by nine teams. The United States defeated the United Kingdom, Czech Republic, Canada and Lithuania and finally Italy to win the gold medal.

The wins can be attributed to the team's camaraderie, hard work and a determination not to mimic the U. S. Olympic team's poor performance, Bailey said.

"It had been quite a while since the U. S. won any kind of international basketball tournament, so the guys took it upon themselves to make sure we ended that drought," he said.

Bailey has been selected as the All-Air Force head coach for the 2005 season and hopes to get a chance at head coach for this year's Allied Powers Europe tournament.